

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend claim 3.

Claim 1 (previously presented): A composition comprising flaky  $\alpha$ -alumina particles having an average major diameter of 2.0 to 25  $\mu\text{m}$ , an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ , an aspect ratio, expressed by average major diameter / average thickness, of 55 to 2000, wherein the particles are produced by employing a source material that will introduce phosphate ions and will result in a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the weight of the alumina particles, wherein the weight of the phosphoric compound used is expressed by weight in terms of  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ .

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): The ~~flaky  $\alpha$ -alumina particles~~ composition according to claim 1, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.

Claims 4-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (previously presented): A cosmetic composition comprising flaky  $\alpha$ -alumina particles having an average major diameter of 2.0 to 25  $\mu\text{m}$ , an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ , and an aspect ratio, expressed by average major diameter / average thickness, of 55 to 2000, wherein the particles are produced by employing a source material that will introduce phosphate ions and will result in a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the weight of the alumina particles, wherein the weight of the phosphoric compound used is expressed by weight in terms of  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ .

Claim 7 (previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 6, in which the flaky  $\alpha$ -alumina particles have an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  and an average particle diameter, in terms of half the sum of the particle diameter in major axis and particle diameter in the minor axis, of 1.0 to 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 8 (previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 6, wherein the flaky  $\alpha$ -alumina particles are present in an amount of 1% to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the cosmetic.

Claims 9-11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 6, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.